Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 18 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Friday 19 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 17 Feb 2021 at 12:55

Confidence: High for unsettled and changeable conditions. Medium in details from Saturday.

Headline for Thursday 18 Feb 2021: Rain clearing to showers. Windy.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 18 Feb 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Cloudy	Light snow	Light snow	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
50%	50%	60%	70%	30%	70%	70%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 18 Feb 2021

Weather: Outbreaks of rain overnight and during the morning, heavy at times. Drier by midday with some brighter skies, but soon turning showery, these wintry over the summits. Turning drier again in the evening. Windy with a severe wind chill.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 40% with extensive cloud, base 600 to 900m, best chance around the middle of the day. Becoming 70% in the evening as the cloud thins and clears.

Visibility: Good or very good falling moderate or poor in rain or showers. Very poor at times on the summits.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 18 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	38/49 S	49/63 S	48/63 S	29/39 SW	28/38 SW	31/42 SW	34/45 SW	30/40 SW	26/36 SW
600	29/41 S	39/55 S	38/55 S	25/36 SW	25/36 SW	27/39 SW	28/41 SW	25/36 SW	20/31 SW
300	11/34 S	17/46 S	17/45 S	11/28 SW	13/30 SW	14/32 SW	13/33 SW	12/30 SW	10/26 SW
Valley	12/30 S	18/43 S	17/41 S	13/26 SW	13/26 SW	15/30 SW	14/30 SW	14/28 SW	11/24 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-4	3/-5	2/-7	-0/-8	-1/-9	-1/-10	-1/-9	-1/-9	-1/-9
600	5/-2	5/-2	4/-3	1/-5	1/-6	1/-6	1/-6	1/-6	1/-6
300	6/3	7/2	6/2	3/-1	3/-1	3/-1	4/-1	3/-1	3/-1
Valley	8/5	8/5	8/4	5/1	6/2	6/2	6/2	6/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	1500m	1500m	1400m	800m	700m	700m	800m	800m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing further to add.

Forecast for Friday 19 Feb 2021

Weather: Cloudy and overcast with outbreaks of heavy and persistent rain. Severe gales or storm force winds over the summits.

Maximum wind: South 40 to 50mph gusting 60 to 70mph

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20%, extensive cloud 600 to 900m.

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain and very poor at times at height. Occasionally good lower down.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 Celsius rising to 9 Celsius
At 800m: Around Zero Celsius rising to 4 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 800m rising above the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date Wednesday 17 February. Location Helvellyn summit. Temperature plus 0.1 degC. Maximum wind speed 33.9mph. Wind chill minus 9.2degC. Average wind speed 24.4mph.
Full report:
We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live.
The thaw continues at almost all levels, it was zero degrees C on the summit around midday although was hailing above 600m as the assessor left the hill. No ice worth mentioning was encountered on paths below 600m. Above 600m hard patches of ice remain on paths; these are mainly situated on flatter sections, where paths are crossed by drainage lines and, especially above 700m, on popular routes where snow has been compacted and on the edges of snow patches where snow has melted and then refrozen. The main snowline is now around 750m; however even above this height large areas of the fells right up to and including the summit plateau are now free from snow. That said significant amounts of snow remain with the greatest accumulations being on N and E facing aspects where, above 850m, the deepest drifts can easily swallow a 60cm ice axe - although such depth is the exception. Where undisturbed, the snowpack was mainly soft and wet with occasional patches of hard snow and ice. The summit plateau was a mixture of bare ground, soft snow, slush, ice and compacted hard snow. With the summit temperature hovering around zero, it

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would only take a marginal drop in temperature for the wet snow to harden and far more ice to be present which walkers out on Thursday heading for the higher fells should be prepared and equipped for.There are cornices above, predominantly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. With the thaw these now consist of predominantly soft snow, have slumped and weakened. Therefore, although reduced in size, they are extremely unstable, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline an ice axe and crampons remain essential regardless of route; this is despite the snowpack being mainly soft and wet owing to the amount of hard snow and ice that still exists and the fact that it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for the snow to harden. Eg on the so-called “easy” path up Helvellyn from Swirls there remains a steep section of unavoidable snow near Browncove Crags where a slip without the means to stop yourself would have serious consequences. The crests of both Striding and Swirral Edges are in mixed condition consisting of bare rock, soft snow and hard compacted snow and ice. Both exits are guarded by banks of steep, deep unavoidable snow. Today, this was soft snow but, again, this could well return to being steep, hard snow on Thursday. Therefore, anyone attempting such exposed routes above the snowline must be experienced in winter mountaineering. Ice on rocks and boulders, which was solid last week, is now loose in places so care needs to be taken even when wearing crampons. Excellent navigational skills are essential especially when low cloud is combined with snow obscuring landmarks. Goggles are highly recommended in case fresh snow or spindrift is encountered and they also help to increase contrast when looking for steep edges. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone.

Issued at: 1255 on Wed 17 Feb 2021

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